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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/081,012 05/19/98 BALLARD

C 2269-003

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LM02/0615

EXAMINER

CANGIALOSI, S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2746

DATE MAILED:

06/15/99

11

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/081,012	Bellar D
Examiner	S. Gangi 9/08	Group Art Unit
	2746	

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication .
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/25, 9/3/98, 2/5, 2/16, 2/10, 5/11, 5/21/99
and 5/17/99

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 1 1; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-51, 53-57 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) 42-51, 53, 56, 57 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1-41, 54, 55 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claim(s) 1-51, 53-57 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Attachment(s)

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2, 3, 5, 8, 9 Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

Office Action Summary

I. The applicants' disclosure statements have been considered. It is however noted that many references are duplicates, some submitted as many as three times.

2. Election/Restriction

3. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group I, Claims 1-41, 54 and 55, drawn to a Encrypted Check Management Method and Apparatus, classified in Class 380, subclass 24.

Group II, Claims 42-51, 53,56, and 57, drawn to a Financial Method and Apparatus, classified in Class 705, subclass 45.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

4. Inventions I and II are disclosed as different combinations which are not connected in design, operation or effect. These combinations are independent if it can be shown that (1) they are not disclosed as capable of use together, (2) they have different modes of operation, (3) they have different functions, or (4) they have different effects. (MPEP 806.04, MPEP 808.01). In the instant case the combinations do not require the particular of each other, i.e. Encryption is not required in Group II. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Mark A. Taylor on 6/8/99 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 21-41, 54 and 55. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in responding to this Office

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action. Claims 42-51, 53,56, and 57 are withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner, 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

7.The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970);and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321© may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

8.Claims 21-41, 54 and 55 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-50 of U.S. Patent No. 5,910,988 Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each

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other because the claims are included within the scope of the parent and are obvious variants thereof since checks are a type of financial data..

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Salvatore Cangialosi at telephone number (703) 305-1837.

Salvatore Cangialosi
SALVATORE CANGIALOSI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 222